

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the present application, with claims 11-16 having been cancelled and claim 4 being currently amended.

Response to the Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action issued on February 18, 2004, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 4-6 on the basis that the non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains of the invention of claims 4-6 are not made in a closed mixing means.

Claim 5: Regarding claim 5, Applicants note that this claim does, in fact, recite the use of a closed mixing means to make the non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains. See lines 9-10 of claim 5, above. Applicants believe inclusion of claim 5 in the rejection was in error and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 6: Claim 4, and therefore dependent claim 6, has been amended to depend from allowable claim 1. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As Applicants have clearly demonstrated the unexpected improved properties associated with the invention of the claims, all of which have the feature of non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains made in a closed mixing means, using experiments that are commensurate in scope with the invention and that compare

the closest prior art withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicants request a two (2) month extension of time for filing the present response. The required fee is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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